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REPORT ON POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN 1984-1985 AND EXAMINATION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1986-1987 WITH PROJECTIONS UP TO 1995

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It will be recalled that the World Population Plan of Action(WPPA), among other things, urged developing countries to consider adopting policies aimed at (i) achieving a low level of birth and death rates consistent with the goal of reducing the annual growth rate to about 2 per cent by 1985, raising the life expectancy at birth to at least 50 years by 1985 and, lowering infant mortality rate to at the most 120 per 1000 livebirths by 1985; (ii) eliminating the undesirable consequences of excessive rural-urban migration; (iii) facilitating voluntary international movements; and, (iv) taking into account the implications of changing numbers and proportions of youth, working age groups and the aged when formulating development policies and programmes.

2. At the Second African Population Conference held at Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania) in January 1984, the ECA Secretariat in a review of the demographic situation in the region reported that these targets had not been met as at mid-1984. The ECA member States then adopted the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (KPA)1/. The 93 recommendations of the KPA served as the African input to the International Population Conference (ICP) in August 1984. The programme was fully endorsed by the 20th OAUSSummit of Heads of State and Government as an integral part of the African strategy for development.

3. This report outlines the implementation of activities of the secretariat in the field of population during the 1984-1985 biennium and presents the approved work programme for the 1986-1987 biennium in the light of these developments. Some proposals which will guide the content of the work programme for the 1988-1989 period are also presented.

4. For the 1984-1985 biennium, the activities of the secretariat in the field of population covered research and studies, national seminars, dissemination of information, advisory services, training and preparation of documents for meetings. As reported at the last conference, the UNFPA terminated resource allocation for infrastructure posts to the secretariat in the field of population effective ending of 1983. Three regular budget professional and one general service posts were made available to the secretariat effective beginning of 1984. The two professional posts that were frozen by UNFPA in 1980 have still not been absorbed into the regular budget. The secretariat was therefore unable to implement two of the projects scheduled for the 1984-1985 biennium. One of these was postponed and the second was partially implemented.2/

1/ See The Demographic Situation in Africa and future trends and the Annex in Report of the Second African Population Conference, Vol.1 (UNECA, Addis Ababa, 1984), ST/ECA/IOP/1, pp. 5-6 and Annex I, pp. 1-14.

2/ Programme element 2.7 on "Trends in subregional variations in population distribution and urbanization in Africa and their effects on agricultural/ industrial development" was postponed to 1986-87; programme element 1.4 on "Evaluation of population redistribution policies and programmes in selected African countries" was partially implemented.

II. PROGRESS REPORT, 1984-1985

A. Research and studies

5. In the framework of the approved work programme for the 1984-1985 biennium, the secretariat completed the following studies and reports:

(i) Demographic analysis and population trends

(a) Fertility levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries;

(b) Family formation, structure and fertility in selected African countries;

(c) Mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries;

(d) Interrelationships among infant and childhood mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in selected African countries;

(e) Demographic handbook for Africa, 1982;

(ii) Population and development policies

(f) Assessement of population policies in socio-economic development in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania;

(g) Evaluation of population redistribution policies and programmes in selected African countries;

(h) The integration of population variables and policies in African development plans;

(i) Population trends and policies in ECA member States.

6. Besides the 1984-1985 work programme, the secretariat undertook a study on the "Fifth population inquiry among governments: ECA member States perceptions and policies on demographic trends in relation to development as of 1982". This study was based on an analysis of the responses by ECA member States from the United Nations Fifth Population Inquiry among Governments. It will be recalled that the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA), among other things, recommended that monitoring of population trends and policies should be undertaken continuously as a specialized activity of the United Nations and reviewed biennially by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system beginning in 1977.3/

3/ Report of the UN World Population Conference, 1974, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (UN Publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3) part one, Chapter 1, para. 107.

B. National Seminars

7. The secretariat assisted member States on request in the organization of national seminars in Burundi, Chad, Tanzania and Uganda. For the national seminar in Burundi, the secretariat contributed a paper on population policies and development in Africa. In a similar meeting for Chad, the secretariat participated both by assisting in the preparations for the seminar, the conduct of the meeting and in the publication of the final report.

C. Activities in the Area of Information and Exchange

8. During the biennium the establishment of Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa) proposed during 1982-1983 became effective. POPIN-Africa subsumed the former population information and clearing house activities of the secretariat. Details of the dissemination of information and population activities undertaken under the new unit are contained in a separate report on the progress of Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa).

9. It is pertinent to observe however that as planned, issues of African Population Newsletter (Nos. 46, 47, 48 and 49) were published as well as two issues of POPINDEX and one issue of African Population Studies Series (No. 8) on the subject of Mortality. The planned POPIN-AFRICA training seminar was reformulated and held as well as a POPIN-AFRICA review meeting.

D. Advisory Services

10. The secretariat continued to provide assistance on analysis of demographic data (e.g. questionnaire design, tabulation programme, demographic data evaluation, etc.) to member States on request. Such requests were received from Sao Tome and Principe, Mauritius, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea. For Mauritius, there was a census analysis and on the job training of analysts.

11. Advisory services were also rendered to member States in the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies in the integration of population variables in development planning and in evaluation of family planning programmes. Burundi, Kenya, U.R. of Tanzania and Zimbabwe received such services. In the case of Kenya, there was a middle level training for Statistical Clerks in the Ministry of Health.

12. The Co-ordinating unit of POPIN-AFRICA provided advisory services to the Arab League in Tunis (Tunisia) on the feasibility of establishing PAN-ARAB Population Information Network (POPIN).

E. Meetings, Conferences, Expert Groups and Seminars

(1) Second African Population Conference, Arusha (U.R. of Tanzania), January 1984.

(2) RIPS Governing Council meeting, Accra (Ghana), February 1984.

(3) Council of Plenipotentiaries, North African MULPOC Tangiers (Morocco), March 1984.

(4) International Conference on Population, Mexico City (Mexico), August 1984.

(5) POPIN Advisory Committee, Mexico City (Mexico), August 1984.

(6) Inter-agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections, New York (USA), October 1984.

(7) United Nations Expert Group meeting on comparative Analysis of WFS data, New York (USA), October 1984.

(8) Regional Training Workshop on Techniques of Analysis of WFS Survey data from African countries, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), November/December 1984.

(9) RIPS Advisory Board on Studies and Research meeting, Accra (Ghana), November 1984.

(10) POPIN-AFRICA review meeting, Addis Ababa (Ethipia), December 1984.

(11) Expert Group Meeting on the Manual for Integrating Population variables into Development Planning, New York (USA), February-March 1985.

(12) Population Commission, New York (USA), February-March 1985.

(13) Second Conference of Vice Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa, Mbabane (Swaziland), February 1985.

(14) Council of Plenipotentiaries, North Africa MULPOC, Tangiers (Morocco), March 1985.

(15) RIPS Governing Council Meeting, Accra (Ghana), June 1985.

(16) Seminar for High Government Officials on Population and Development Berlin (W. Germany) June, 1985.

(17) Regional Training Workshop on Demographic Estimates and Projections In Africa, Accra (Ghana), July 1985.

(18) IFORD Governing Council meeting, Yaounde (Cameroon), July 1985

(19) Seminar on Migration and Regional Development in Africa, Accra (Ghana), August 1985.

F. Documents Submitted to Meetings, Seminars and Conferences

(1) Demographic Situation in Africa (E/ECA/POP/2).

(2) A Study of Migration from the Maghreb to West European Countries: Progress Report.

(3) Background Paper for POPIN-AFRICA review meeting (ECA/PD/WP/1984/15).

(4) Africa: Economic Crisis and Population Problems (ECA/AAU(ED/85/12).

(5) The Methodology and Data for National Projections (ECA/PD/WP/1985/6).

(6) The Methodology and Data for Subnational Projections (ECA/PD/WP/1985/

(7) The Methodology and Data for Sectoral Projections (ECA/PD/WP/1985/10)

(8) Projecting School Enrolment (ECA/PD/WP/1985/10b).

(9) Population Projections in Housing Planning (ECA/PD/WP/1985/10c)

(10) Population Projections in Health Planning (ECA/PD/WP/1985/10d)

(11) The Scope and Nature of Internal Migration Data in African Censuses and Surveys - 1970 and 1980 Rounds.

(12) Methods in Regional, Urban and Rural Population Projections.

G. Training and Research

(a) Training and Research

13. The two institutes, the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Demographiques (IFORD) continued to provide facilities for the training of demographers for English and French-speaking African countries respectively. Although the institutes have been in existence for the past eleven years, the need for demographers is still strong in the African countries. Both the ECA Conference of Ministers meetings in Addis Ababa in May 1984 and April 1985, adopted resolutions calling for continued support to be given to RIPS and IFORD by the African member countries and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

(b) Advisory Board on Studies and Research

14. The Advisory Board on Studies and Research of IFORD met in April and approved changes to the training programme. These concerned the content of courses in demographic analysis and the introduction of new courses. The Advisory Board on Studies and Research of RIPS met in November 1984. It approved the replacement of Graduate Diploma in Population Studies with a 12-month Master of Arts course and the introduction of an M.Phil. course by research. The Master of Arts course has now been approved by the Univeristy.

(c) Governing Council

15. The Governing Council of IFORD met in November 1983 and July 1985 and that of RIPS in February 1984 and June 1985. Both bodies reviewed the training and research activities of the two institutes, examined their financial situation and budgets and approved schemes of contributions for their member countries. In the case of IFORD contributions of a fixed equal amount was set for each member country. In the case of RIPS the UN scale of assessment was used in calculating individual member country contributions.

(d) Financial Situation

16. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) continued to be the major source of funding for the institutes. However the general principles adopted by the 13th session of the Governing Council of UNFPA in June 1983, foresees greater financial autonomy for the institutes towards the end of the period 1984-1987. Consequently UNFPA reduced its funding level in 1984. This reduction coupled with the non-payment of contributions by African countries has put the future of the two institutes at stake.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK 1986-1989

A. Programme Objectives

17. This programme has three sub-programmes whose respective objectives during the plan period 1986-1989 will be as follows:

SUBPROGRAMME 1. POPULATION POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

18. The objectives of this subprogramme are to assist Governments of member countries in the formulation and implementation of effective population policies and in the integration of population variables into development planning; to promote consideration in the development planning process of the interactions between economic and social development issues and such issues as population structure, movements and changes.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

19. The objectives of this subprogramme are to develop, test and apply techniques of demographic research within the context of socio-economic development in Africa and to study and evaluate factors responsible for demographic trends and structural changes, especially those factors related to the social and economic situation and national characteristics.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. REGIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH

20. The objective of this subprogramme is to assist Governments in the training of personnel for work in population and in the use of the research facilities and advisory services.

B. Work Programme

SUBPROGRAMME 1. POPULATION POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

1.1 Technical assistance to countries and territories

Final Output:

21. Advisory services to member States in the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies in the integration of population variables in development planning and in evaluation of family planning programmes (two countries in 1986 and two countries in 1987).

1.2 Assessment of population policies in socio-economic development planning in Africa

Final Outputs:

22. (i) Technical publication on relevant legislative instruments affecting the formulation and implementation of population policies in African countries (fourth quarter 1986);

(ii) Technical publication on African experience in the implementation of population policies and programmes (fourth quarter 1987).

1.3 Evaluation of the demographic impact of population programmes in African countries

Final Outputs:

23. (i) Report to inter-governmental expert group meeting on integrated maternal and child-health/family planning programmes in Africa on:

(a) Factors influencing current levels of usage of family planning services in selected countries (fourth quarter 1987);

(b) Comparative evaluation of the impact of maternal and child-health/family planning services in African countries with national programmes to reduce fertility (fourth quarter 1987);

(c) Implications for future demand for family planning services of world fertility survey results on current use, willingness to use family planning methods and in increasing size of female population of reproductive ages (fourth quarter 1987).

(ii) Technical publication on methodological problems of evaluating integrated maternal and child-health/family planning programmes in Africa (fourth quarter 1987).

(iii) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental expert group meeting on integrated maternal and child-health/family planning programmes in Africa (fourth quarter, 1987).

1.4 Integration of population variables and policies in development plans

Final Outputs:

24. (i) Technical publication: The integration of population and related policies in sectoral development plans in selected African countries (fourth quarter 1987).

(ii) Substantive servicing of one session of intergovernmental meeting on a manual and guidelines on the integration of population variables in development plans (fourth quarter 1986).

(iii) Substantive servicing of national seminars on the integration of population variables in development planning (one seminar per year).

SUBPROGRAMME 2. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme elements:

2.1 Advisory services to countries on census and survey data analysis

25. (i) Advisory services to member States, on request, in evaluating and analysing data from population censuses, surveys and vital registration systems (two countries in 1986 and two in 1987) and providing on-the-job training for nationals in demographic analysis (two countries in 1986 and two in 1987);

(ii) Substantive servicing of two middle level national training workshops in demographic analysis for staff of census offices and ministries of health, education, economic planning, labour and social services (one each year);

(iii) Technical publication on comparative evaluation and analysis of the 1980s round of censuses (fourth quarter 1987).

2.2 Fertility levels, patterns, differentials and trends in African countries.

Final Output:

26. Report to the fifth Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on Fertility Levels, Patterns, Differentials and Trends in African Countries (first quarter 1987).

2.3 Family formation, structure and fertility in selected African countries.

Final Outputs:

27. (i) Technical publication: The changing role of women and fertility in African countries (fourth quarter 1986);

(ii) The impact of changing patterns of family formation and structure in Africa on fertility trends in selected African countries (fourth quarter 1987).

2.4 Mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries.

Final Output:

28. Report to the Fifth Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries (first quarter 1987).

2.5 Interrelationship among infant and childhood mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in selected African countries.

Final Output:

29. Technical publication: Comparative study of trends in infant and childhood mortality and their implications for population growth in African countries (third quarter 1987).

2.6 Population projections including evaluation, adjustment and analysis of demographic data for the African region

Final Outputs:

30. (i) Demographic and related socio-economic data sheets for the ECA member States (fourth quarter 1986);

(ii) Estimates and projections of African population trends as assessed in 1986 (second quarter 1987).

2.7 Trends in subregional variations in population distribution and urbanization in Africa and their effects on agricultural and industrial development

Final Output:

31. Report to the Fifth Meeting of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on analysis of levels, trends and subregional variations in population distribution and urbanization and their effects on agricultural and industrial development in the African region.

2.8 Population information and clearing house services

Final Outputs:

32. (i) Technical publications: (a) African Population Newsletter (two issues per year); (b) African Population Studies Series (One issue 1987); (c) Bibliographies on population: POPIN-Africa Index (one issue per year); (d) POPIN-Africa Bulletin (one issue per year); (e) Directory of African Demographers (one issue 1987).

(ii) Substantive servicing of one training workshop per year on population information and documentation;

(iii) Substantive servicing of one POPIN-Africa Advisory meeting (1986).

2.9 International migration and its effect on the economies of African countries

Final Outputs:

33. (i) Report to the meeting of the North African MULPOC on the consequences of migration from the Maghreb to West European countries (first quarter 1987);

(ii) Technical publication: International migratory flows in African countries (Third quarter 1987).

SUBPROGRAMME 3. REGIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Programme elements:

3.1 Technical support to the substantive and administrative activities of the regional institutes for population studies

Final Outputs:

34. (i) Identification and selection of about 80 candidates for UNFPA fellowships and demographic training at RIPS and IFORD (40 each in 1986 and 1987);

(ii)) Backstopping, on request, training, research, seminars and other activities of IFORD, RIPS and the Sahel Institute (one mission to each institute per year);

(iii) Substantive servicing of the meeting of the Advisory Boards of RIPS and IFORD (one for each, every two years) and the Governing Councils of RIPS and IFORD (one for each in 1986);

(iv) Report to the Governing Council on Draft Budget requirements for UNFPA funding and contributions from the member States (one for each institute in 1986). Disbursement of resources in collaboration with the Institutes.

(v) Report to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the activities and progress of RIPS and IFORD.

(vi) Lecture missions to the East African Statistical Training Centre (one in 1986 and one in 1987) and to other national institutions on request.

V.. PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME UP TO 1995

35. For the 1988-1995 period, activities of the secretariat in the field of population will still cover the three sub-programmes and focus on research/studies, national seminars, dissemination of information, advisory services, training and preparation of documents for meetings.

36. However, the projected focus of the work programme will derive from the progress which will then have been achieved in the region towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (WPPA), the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (KPA) and the International Conference on Population (ICP). Based on studies of fertility and mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in the member States undertaken by the secretariat during the 1984-1985 biennium, the estimated annual growth rate of the regional population of 3 per cent as at mid-1985 was still far short of the target set by the WPPA; so also was the regional estimate of infant mortality rate. Therefore it will be desirable for the secretariat to undertake studies on the correlates of declines of fertility and mortality (particularly infant and childhood mortality) during the 1988-1995 biennium. This will be accomplished through the media of the advisory services of the secretariat which would then ensure the integration of findings from such studies into the development plans of the member States besides assisting these member States in formulating and implementing appropriate population policies. On this issue of assisting member States to formulate population policies, it will be desirable during the 1988-1995 biennium to organize a study tour for African planners, demographers and policy makers to enable them observe some relatively successful population policies and programmes either in Latin America or Asian countries.

37. In this regard, other related studies by the secretariat would include (i) fertility and mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in the member States; (ii) interrelationships among infant and childhood mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility, (iii) the impact of national maternal and child-health and family planning (MCH/FP) programmes on fertility in the member States. All these studies will be aimed at monitoring the impact of the national MCH/FP programmes in the member States consistent with one of the desiderata of the WPPA namely that the UN family should undertake monitoring of population trends by region on a biennial basis. In this regard, an intergovernmental expert group will also be organized by the secretariat on the techniques of evaluating MCH/FP programmes in the member States.

38. The 93 recommendations of the KPA covered nine key population areas namely population and development strategy and policy, fertility and family planning, morbidity and mortality, urbanization and migration, changing role of women in the development process, children and youth, population data collection/analysis, training/research, population information, community involvement and role of private and non-governmental organizations. In the area of data collection/analysis/training/research, the advisory services of the secretariat to member States will, during the 1988-1995 period, emphasize more intensive analysis of data from the 1980 census round on (i) headship rates; (ii) school attendance and highest school level attained; (iii) migration questions on place of birth, duration of residence, place of usual residence, place of previous residence. In particular, place of birth statistics in all available censuses for every member State will be analysed and reanalysed more carefully through the media of advisory services in order to provide data on volume and trends of immigrant stock. Such data will be updated and provided by the secretariat. In this connection, the two approaches proposed by the UNESCO committee set up for the improvement of existing techniques for indirect measurement of international migration (i.e. residence of surviving children and of surviving siblings) will be experimented within the data constraints of the censuses of the member States.

39. Based on the findings from such analyses, the secretariat will be better disposed to undertake subnational and sectoral (particularly education, housing and labour force) population projections for the member States during the 1988-period. This will be consistent with the KPA's recommendation that the integration of population variables in development planning should be extended to subregional and district levels in each member State. Both of these types of population projections require detailed data on internal migration.

40. With respect to the causes and consequences of international migration in the region, the case of each subregion will be treated according to its particular circumstances. In the North, an indepth analysis of relevant data for the non-Maghreb countries will be undertaken during the 1988-1995 period alongside with the examination of the past, present and future migration situation between the Maghreb and West European countries during the 1986-1987 biennium so as to guide the future migration policy in the subregion. In the West, the joint World Bank and OECD study on the causes and consequences of migration in 9 member States within the subregion will be replicated for the remaining 7 member States. The results of both studies will be integrated. In the South, the secretariat will undertake a study of the migratory labour system in the subregion. For the East,

the secretariat will initiate studies on the causes and consequences of labour migration in the subregion. Admittedly, resource constraints may permit the implementation of only one of these four subregional migration studies.

41. In addition to the study on the causes and consequences of international migration, the secretariat will, during the period undertake a study of estimates of net international migration (using indirect methods such as census and life table survival ratios) from the 1970 and 1980 census rounds. Such estimates will improve the preparation by the secretariat of demographic estimates and projections for the member States during the 1988-1995 period.

42. Still in the area of migration, the secretariat will undertake studies on the dynamics of city growth in the member States so as to adduce evidence for ascertaining which is the more important determinant of city growth in the member States - natural increase or net migration. Again such findings will be disseminated to member States and will guide the formulation of pertinent population policies in the member States.